

**REQUEST FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000 provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

Application Number: 09/651,323

Filing Date: August 31, 2000

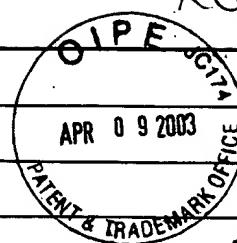
First Named Inventor: Oscar Lee AVANT

Group Art Unit: 2876

Examiner: Ahshik KIM

Attorney Docket Number: 8049.0010-00

Attorney Customer Number: 22,852



This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) instead of a RCE to be eligible for patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See "Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice," Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (March 20, 2000). Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (April 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114:

- a. Previously submitted
 - i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply after final under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed on [Date] _____.
 - ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief of Reply Brief previously filed on [Date] _____.
 - iii. Other _____
- b. Enclosed:
 - i. Amendment/Reply
 - ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. Information Disclosure Statement
 - iv. Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

- a. Suspension of action on the above-mentioned application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of [number] months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required.)
- b. Other _____

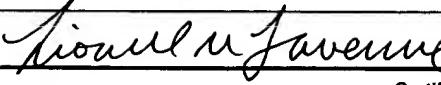
3. Fees

- a. The filing fee is calculated as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$750.00 RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) ii. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petition for extension of time for (3 Months) \$930.00 iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ 	04/10/2003 YPOLITE1 00000015 09651323 01 FC:1801 750.00 0P
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- b. Check in the amount of \$1680.00 enclosed.
- c. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in the filing fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Signature of Applicant, Attorney, or Agent Required

Name: Lionel M. Lavenue	Reg. No.: 46,859
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Signature: 	Date: April 9, 2003
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Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 8049.0010-00



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Oscar L. AVANT et al.

Application No.: 09/651,323

Filed: August 31, 2000

For: APPARATUS AND METHODS
FOR IDENTIFYING A MAILPIECE
USING AN IDENTIFICATION
CODE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

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4-17-03
9. Attic
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AMENDMENT

In reply to the Final Office Action dated October 15, 2002, the period for response being extended by the Petition for Extension of Time filed concurrently herewith, the period for response thereby extended to April 15, 2003, Applicants file herewith a Request for Continued Examination to submit this Amendment. Accordingly, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 18, 35, and 36 follows:

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1. (Twice Amended) A method of identifying a plurality of mailpieces in a mailpiece sorting system, using identification codes corresponding to identification files, comprising the steps of:

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marking one of the plurality of mailpieces with an identification code that uniquely corresponds to the one mailpiece on the back of the one mailpiece;

creating an identification file uniquely corresponding to the identification code and the one mailpiece, where the identification file may be accessed from a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system; and

using the identification code to retrieve identification information from the corresponding identification file at a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system.

B1
B2

18. (Twice Amended) A system for identifying a plurality of mailpieces in a mailpiece sorting system, using identification codes corresponding to identification files, comprising:

a marking component configured to mark one of the plurality of mailpieces with an identification code that uniquely corresponds to the one mailpiece on the back of the one mailpiece;

a creating component configured to create an identification file uniquely corresponding to the identification code and the one mailpiece, where the identification file may be accessed from a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system; and

a using component configured to use the identification code to retrieve identification information from the corresponding identification file at a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system.

35. (Twice Amended) A system for identifying a plurality of mailpieces in a mailpiece sorting system, using identification codes corresponding to identification files, comprising:

means for marking one of the plurality of mailpieces with an identification code that uniquely corresponds to the one mailpiece on the back of the one mailpiece;

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means for creating an identification file uniquely corresponding to the identification code and the one mailpiece, where the identification file may be accessed from a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system; and

means for using the identification code to retrieve identification information from the corresponding identification file at any node on the mailpiece sorting system.

36. (Twice Amended) A computer usable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for identifying a plurality of mailpieces in a mailpiece sorting system, the computer readable code comprising:

a marking module configured to mark one of the plurality of mailpieces with an identification code that uniquely corresponds to the one mailpiece on the back of the one mailpiece;

a creating module configured to create an identification file uniquely corresponding to the identification code and the one mailpiece, where the identification file may be accessed from a plurality of nodes on the mailpiece sorting system; and

a using module configured to use the identification code to retrieve identification information from the corresponding identification file at any node on the mailpiece sorting system.

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